



November 9, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

Today's designation of large parts of Monroe County as a Coronavirus Yellow Zone will impact several of our school communities. They are:

- Holy Cross School, Charlotte
- Seton Catholic School, Brighton
- St. Ambrose Academy, Rochester
- St. Joseph School, Penfield
- St. Kateri School, Irondequoit
- St. Lawrence School, Greece
- St. Louis School, Pittsford
- St. Pius X School, Chili
- St. Rita School, Webster

Schools in designated Yellow Zones are permitted to remain open but must participate in weekly testing of 20% of the student, staff, and teachers using on-site, rapid testing kits. Each of our schools is working closely with the Monroe County Health Department and our local public schools to arrange for necessary testing kits and training. Our participation in these requirements helps ensure that we keep our community safe and our schools open.

Are our schools still safe?

Yes, as noted in the press conferences, Commissioner of Public Health Dr. Michael Mendoza has stated that our schools remain among the safest environments for controlling the spread of the virus. In light of this, we will remain vigilant in continuing to enforce the cleaning and safety procedures set forth in our reopening plans into the future.

How will testing work?

Each of our schools will designate a site administrator for testing who will be trained and equipped to administer the tests. These tests will be conducted weekly on 20% of the total school population, including the total of students, staff, and teachers on site. The 20% must rotate weekly, with a new 20% tested each week. Hypothetically, this would mean that after 5 weeks, everyone in the school community would participate in testing. Each school will develop a system for determining which individuals participate in testing each week.

Can we opt-out of testing?

The testing used in schools is a rapid form of testing that is much less invasive than the standard test. We also note that our willingness to participate in these mandates ensures that our schools can remain open and that our local officials can better analyze and respond to the needs of our local community. However, understanding that some families may have concerns regarding having your child(ren) tested, we ask you to proactively reach out to your school principal and we will address your concerns on a case-by-case basis.

How long will this last?

Yellow Zone designation will remain until community infection levels fall below the set mandates. This can be as short as one week in some locations, if all protocols are followed throughout the community. Our success will be reflected in our teamwork and cooperation with the efforts and restrictions made on community and private gatherings.

Please join us in praying for all those in our community struggling with illness and for a quick end to this virus and a return to normal operations. Until then, we thank you for your continued support and all that you do for our Catholic Schools.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Tauzel".

James Tauzel
Superintendent of Schools